



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,721	12/20/2001	Toshiharu Katagiri	2933KA-5	9785

22442 7590 07/17/2003

SHERIDAN ROSS PC
1560 BROADWAY
SUITE 1200
DENVER, CO 80202

EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,721

Applicant(s)

KATAGIRI ET AL.

Examiner

John B. Walsh

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 11, line 2 recites “a the second guide.” It appears this should be “a second guide”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,866,964 to Hall.

Hall '964 discloses a rotor case (12); a rotor (14) having an engagement portion (see marked up copy attached to office action); a back spring (38; has elastic and resilient properties to act as a spring) located about the rotor case (figure 1), wherein an end portion (see marked up copy attached to office action) of the back spring engages with the engagement portion (figure 2); a pair of guide portions (see marked up copy attached to office action) formed in an end portion of the rotor, the guide portions guide both end portions of the back spring to the engagement portion (when inserted the end portions are bent out by a camming force supplied by the guide portions until they come to the engagement portion).

Art Unit: 3676

As concerns claim 8, each of the guide portions is a surface that is inclined with respect to an axis of the rotor (figure 2), wherein the end portion of the back spring is bent radially inward (figure 2).

As concerns claim 10, the distance between the guide portions increases toward an end surface of the rotor and toward the radially outer surface of the rotor (figure 2; as you move downward in the figure the distance between the guide portions increases).

As concerns claim 11, the guide portions are a first and second guide portions, wherein the rotor case has a second guide portion (figure 1; slot in 12 fore 32), wherein, when the back spring is attached to the rotor case (figure 1), the second guide portion guides the back spring to a predetermined position in an axial direction of the rotor case and holds the back spring at the axial position (figure 1; back spring is held in place).

As concerns claim 12, mounting a back spring (32) to a rotor case (12); inserting a rotor (14) into the rotor case, wherein both end portions of the back spring are guided to an engagement portion (see marked up copy attached to office action), which is formed in the rotor, along a pair guide portions (see marked up copy attached to office action) of the rotor.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1 and 3-6 are allowed.

Art Unit: 3676

6. The indicated allowability of claims 9 and 10 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to U.S. Patent No. 4,866,964 to Hall. A rejection based on the newly cited reference is found above.

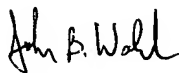
Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 703-305-0444. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9325.



John B. Walsh
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3670

JW
July 15, 2003